



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 28, 2000

S. 1969 **Outfitter Policy Act of 1999**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on
September 20, 2000*

S. 1969 would establish a uniform policy for issuing permits to outfitters and similar businesses that offer certain recreational services on public lands. CBO estimates that implementing this bill would have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill would make changes to federal programs that generate offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending), so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates, however, that the effect on direct spending would be negligible.

The legislation would require outfitters to obtain permits to conduct commercial activities on lands under the jurisdictions of the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. (Generally, outfitters are small businesses that provide recreational equipment and act as guides and escorts.) Such permits would usually cover 10 years and would be renewable for companies that receive satisfactory performance evaluations. The bill also would provide guidelines for setting fees to be charged to outfitters.

Based on information provided by the four affected agencies, CBO estimates that the bill would have little if any effect on offsetting receipts from outfitter activities. All four agencies already charge fees to outfitters and have authority to spend at least some of the amounts they collect. The bill would not change the way that the agencies establish such fees or the way they are spent. Currently, total offsetting receipts collected from outfitters by the four agencies are less than \$5 million annually.

S. 1969 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant effect on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.